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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,579	06/27/2003	Takafumi Kashiwagi	61352-040	5783
7590 06/15/2004				
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY		EXAMINER		
600 13th Street, N.W.		TSIDULKO, MARK		
Washington, DC 20005-3096				
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2875		

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,579

Applicant(s)

KASHIWAGI ET AL.

Examiner

Mark Tsidulko

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ono et al. (US 6,607,281).

Referring to Claim 1 Ono et al. disclose (Figs.3, 8) a light guide plate [61] having:

- a top surface [61b], a bottom surface [61c], a plurality of side surfaces and a plurality of corner portions [61a2] (col.11, lines 41-49) each of which is formed by intersecting adjacent two side surfaces and a light incident surface disposed between the corner portions;
- a light source provided along the light incident face and having both end portions forming non-light-emitting portions [4] (Fig.3) and a portion between the both end portions forming a light-emitting portion in which light emitted from the light source and incident on the light incident face of the light guide plate emanates from the top surface of the guide plate;
- the light source is disposed such that the non-light-emitting portions correspond to the pair of the corner portions respectively;

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- the corner portions have an inclined faces [61a2] in contact with the light incident face [61a1], the side surface (not indicated by number) adjacent to the light incident face and with the top and bottom surfaces, forming obtuse angle (which is always more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees) with the bottom surface [61c].

Referring to Claims 3-5 Ono et al. disclose (Fig.8) that inclined surface [61a2] of the light guide plate [61] is in contact with a top surface [61b] and a bottom surface (not indicated by number).

Referring to Claim 6 Ono et al. disclose (Figs.3, 8) a liquid crystal display device having:

- a liquid crystal panel [43] disposed on a light emanating side of the lighting unit and having a pair of substrates with liquid crystal interposed therebetween (col.8, lines 19-24);
- a lighting unit having :
 - light guide plate including a top surface [61b], a bottom surface [61c], a plurality of side surfaces and a plurality of corner portions [61a2] (col.11, lines 41-49) each of which is formed by intersecting adjacent two side surfaces and a light incident surface disposed between the corner portions;
 - a light source provided along the light incident face and having both end portions forming non-light-emitting portions [4] (Fig.3) and a portion between the both end portions forming a light-emitting portion in which light emitted from the light source and incident on the light incident face of the light guide plate emanates from the top surface of the guide plate;

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- the light source is of the light guide plate have an inclined faces [61a2] in contact with the light incident face [61a1], the side surface (not indicated by number) adjacent to the light incident face and with the top and bottom surfaces, forming obtuse angle (which is always more than 90 degrees and less than 180 degrees) with the bottom surface [61c].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono et al. (US 6,607,281).

Ono et al. discloses the instant claimed invention except for that the inclined surface has a light scattering structure, but disclose an incident surface 11a2 having a scattering structure (Fig.3, col.9, lines 12-22) in order to increase the quantity of light.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the scattering structure of the incident surface [11a2] for the incident surface [61a2] in order to increase the quantity of light.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tsidulko whose telephone number is (571)272-2384. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for all communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

M.T.
June 8, 2004



ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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